

# The Conservative.

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**ZEALOUS EN-COURAGEMENT.** Friends of THE CONSERVATIVE in nearly every state of the Union seem zealously endeavoring to encourage it by a generous and flattering patronage. The object and aim of THE CONSERVATIVE as expressed in its prospectus are unqualifiedly and unequivocally endorsed by good men and women, East, West, North and South. Their letters of commendation and approbation reach us by nearly every mail.

The number of subscribers for THE CONSERVATIVE must be and will be increased by many thousands. It is already firmly established in many of the best homes of the country and is therefore a splendid sheet in which to advertise valuable and useful things which are for sale.

**PROTECTION AND ANNEXATION.** What farmer thinks of enlarging his home estate by the purchase of non-contiguous lands? What practical farmer attempts to annex to his agricultural operations the tillage of fields a hundred miles from his domicile?

How can a zealous and sincere protectionist favor the annexation of territory containing industries which are competitive with those of the United States? How can competition with absorbed or annexed pauperism be less baneful than competition with unannexed ignorance and unabsorbed pauperism?

And if annexation proceeds until all the world is embodied in the United States what will "the friends of American labor" and "the protectors of American wage-earners" do for the "cause of human progress" and "the exaltation of the toiling millions" of "our beloved country?"

**CREDITORS AND DEBTORS.** All over the United States, and notably in Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, the relatively poor are the creditors and the relatively rich the debtors. The banks and bankers owe all their deposits to the relatively poor people who have confided their money to the safekeeping of the banks.

The great factories owe, every Saturday night, a large sum to their operatives and other employees who have credited them with the use of brains and brawn for six days. Every day all the the industrial energies of the Northwest, and, in fact, of the

whole country will awaken to life and useful activity because muscle, skill and sturdy labor will credit capital for another day's work. Labor is the creditor and capital the debtor! Millions of minds and myriads of trained and disciplined bodies of labor renew its loans to capital every day. Laborers are the the creditor and not the debtor class in Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa.

**THE SAGE BRUSH OF NEVADA.** The state of Nevada was prematurely forced into the American Union for the purpose of aiding the ratification of the fifteenth amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

Political sins come home to roost. Nevada in 1898, with less than forty thousand population, furnishes two senators who persistently attack the national credit and volubly declare for lowering the standard of value in this country. They are noisily for 16 to 1 all the time. They are so naturally. Their constituencies are at the ratio of sixteen voters to one senator. The whole state of Nevada contains much less than half the population which Omaha alone contains.

**TRADE CENTERS.** Professor Perry wisely and tersely said in one of his valuable volumes on Political Economy: "A market for products is products in market." And the more one ponders over this Perryism, the more one comes to realize the stupendous truth which it contains. Trade centers are not made by having a single commodity on sale, but by having a general assortment of commodities. Money is attracted to such commercial centers merely to mediate exchanges. And coined money is only an intermediary commodity, stamped and certificated, to be used as a tool to effect the exchange of the other commodities. And money, the measurer of values and the facilitator of exchanges, always goes where the exchanges are to be made. It is as natural for money to flow into Boston, New York, Chicago and other vast markets as it is for water to seek the level or honey bees to invade orchards in bloom.

Where the world finds for sale a lot of goods which the world wants, the world will rush its money to be employed. For money owners are as anxious to have their money used as livery stable keepers are to have their horses hired out.

Trade centers are evolved out of agri-

culture, commerce and manufacture. Trade centers cannot be established and maintained except at points where permanent plants produce staple goods or commodities which pretty much all civilized mankind wants. But any properly located community, with proper railroad facilities for transportation, which is situated in an agricultural county abounding in raw cereal products, may be made a trade center; because any community which can offer the world's markets an acceptable and wholesome nutrient, whether made from vegetable or animal products, will always have the world's money hurrying towards it. No community which offers in part to supply a want common to civilization can ever be very hard pressed financially even in times of panic.

**NOMINATIONS ON THE MERIT BASIS.** What objection can be made to a system of competitive examinations of candidates seeking nominations in political conventions?

When the populists, or republicans, or democrats, or conservatives hold state and county conventions why not have committees appointed—out of the whole body of delegates in each—to examine candidates as to their abilities and qualifications?

In a state convention a board of examiners, made up of good business men and accountants, would soon find out who among the candidates was best qualified for state treasurer or state auditor.

In a county convention an inquest as to the capabilities of those seeking to be county commissioners would eliminate the ignorant and dishonest from candidature.

Why not begin now, in the autumn conventions of 1898, to examine all candidates, for office in each of the political organizations in Nebraska? Why not inaugurate a real reform in the civil service of the counties, cities and states west of the Missouri river by an open inquisition to ascertain the most efficient and meritorious candidates.

Business men, firms and corporations select their employees and agents because of especial qualifications as to integrity, sobriety, industry, capability, fitness and merit!

Why should the people in their nominating conventions ignore these safe methods? Why not compel candidates in conventions to stand up and answer all pertinent and respectful questions their answers to which will demonstrate either fitness or unfitness for positions sought?